

First Friends Church

February 8, 2009

“iMarriage”

Moving from capital “I” to small case “i” in our loving relationships.

“i” – interdependent, intimate, & in the image of God.

God’s Transforming LOVE:

God’s Design vs. My Demands – covenant vs. contract

Invitational vs. Entitlement – I deserve nothing

Developing vs. Deteriorating - maturing

Dynamic vs. Static – open to change

Self-Giving vs. Self-Centered – *agape love*

Taking God’s side vs. my side – revelation

God’s view of marriage is supreme. Matt. 19:1-11

Marriage is by God’s design, to declare God’s glory!

A. What is God’s design for marriage?

1. Secure Relationship – 2:18-25

- God *ORDAINED* the marriage covenant relationship. “*Together forever*”
**Primary metaphor in scripture.
- God *CREATED* male for relationship – Gen. 2:18
 - Intimacy: not good for man to be alone.
 - Image of God - Gen. 1:27
- God *CREATED* female from male for relationship – Gen. 2:21-23

- Interdependent: partners, complimentary; equal but not identical.

- God *GAVE* away the first bride – *brought her to the man.* Gen. 1:22
- God *SPOKE* the purpose/design of marriage – Gen. 2:24
 - Jesus reaffirmed marriage. Matt. 19:4-5
- God *JOINED* - Jesus added: *What God has joined, let no man separate.* Mt. 19:6
- God *GLORIFIES JESUS* in our marriage covenant through *agape love.* Ephes. 5:31-32
 - New Covenant paid for with Jesus’ blood. Lk. 22:20
 - Unbreakable “marriage” between us and Jesus

The highest meaning and ultimate purpose for marriage is to put the covenant relationship of Christ and his Bride (us) on display. If you are married, this is the ultimate reason why!

HOW do we develop “security” in our marriage relationship?

1. Secure your covenant relationship with God by faith in Jesus’ death and resurrection.
2. Affirm the security of your marriage covenant daily:
Words, Time, Acts of Service, Gifts, Touch
3. Infuse your marriage covenant with the power of praying out loud together. Matt. 18:19